

E-6-7  
Fourpoints Bridge  
Motters Station  
Public

C. 1876

The Fourpoints Bridge spans Tom Creek southeast of Emmitsburg in Fourpoints on Keysville Road. It is a pratt half hip through iron truss structure in a single span 103 feet in length and 15.6 feet wide. It was built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio in the third quarter of the nineteenth century as indicated by a plaque located on the structure. The bridge sits on two random coursed stone abutments with adjoining wing walls. Corner blocks imprinted with "Patented November 21, 1876" are located at the top of each diagonal half hip member indicating that this particular style of truss design was patented by the company in 1876 and was installed in this location soon after that date.

The pratt truss was originally patented in 1844 by Thomas Pratt and became the most popular truss design in Frederick County as well as the rest of the country. An unusual feature about the Fourpoints Bridge is its early construction date and ornate nameplates, one of which is broken in a corner, which are located on the first cross members on either side of the bridge.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEF-6-7  
1100920617NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fourpoints Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Keysville Road over Toms Creek

CITY, TOWN

Emmitsburg

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY

Frederick

CODE

021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☐ ACCESSIBLE  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☒ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME The Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, Maryland  
c/o William Fout, Roads Department Engineer

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Winchester Hall

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21701

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Roads Department (Bridge #0502)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Montevue Lane

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Engineering Record

DATE

Summer, 1977

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, 1100 L Street, NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fourpoints Bridge spans Tom Creek southeast of Emmitsburg in Fourpoints on Keysville Road, in ~~Frederick County, Maryland~~. It is a pratt half hip thru iron truss structure in a single span 103 feet in length and 15.6 feet wide. It was built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio in the third quarter of the 19th century as indicated by a plaque located on the structure. The bridge sits on two random-coursed stone abutments with adjoining wing walls. Corner blocks imprinted with "Patented November 21, 1876" are located at the top of each diagonal half hip member indicating that this particular style of truss design was patented by the company in 1876 and was installed in this location soon after that date.

The pratt truss was originally patented in 1844 by Thomas Pratt and became the most popular truss design in Frederick County as well as the rest of the country. An unusual feature about the Fourpoints Bridge is its early construction date and ornate name plates, one of which is broken in a corner, which are located on the first cross members on either side of the bridge. Alterations include ~~new~~ planking, a coat of paint and a repaired cross member in the northwest corner of the bridge.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		industrial archeology	

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wrought Iron Bridge Company  
Canton, Ohio

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fourpoints Bridge is an excellent example of the well-designed bridges constructed by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, one of the largest manufacturers of iron truss bridges in the 19th century. It is one of three bridges still existing in Frederick County, Maryland known to have been built by the Company. One of these bridges was damaged in a flood in 1973 and is scheduled for demolition in the near future. The third bridge is a double intersection Pratt truss, also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (the Poffenberger Road Bridge).

The Wrought Iron Bridge Company was formed from a foundry originally owned and run by John Laird as early as 1840. By 1867 the company became known as the wrought iron works of John Laird and Company and expanded its production to include iron buildings. The company was incorporated as the Wrought Iron Bridge Company in 1871 by the patenters of a wrought iron arch bridge named David Hammond and Job Abbot. By 1881 the company employed 270 men and had erected bridges in twenty-five states. Between 1899 and 1902 the outfit was taken over by the American Bridge Division of the United States Steel Corporation.<sup>1</sup> Since all bridges made by the company were constructed by 1899 most examples of bridges made by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company have been replaced.




The Fourpoints Bridge has survived for almost 100 years as a functional part of the Frederick County landscape and deserves continued attention and preservation as a fine example of iron truss bridge construction.




<sup>1</sup> Dan Deibler, Metal Truss Bridges in Virginia, 1865-1932, Vol. I. Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1975, p.49.

F-6-7

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## UTM REFERENCES

B     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D   

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

**CODE**

COUNTY

**CODE**

STATE

**CODE**

**COUNTY**

**CODE**

**1 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

1 km

## ORGANIZATION

Cherilyn Widell

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Frederick County Historic Preservation

January 13, 1978

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

## Winchester Hall

(301) 663-8300

STATE

Frederick

Maryland 21701

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL** ...

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

TEST:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Fourpoints Bridge  
Frederick County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deibler, Dan. Metal Truss Bridges in Virginia, 1865-1932. Vol. I.  
Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1975.

Jackson, Donald. "Railroads, truss bridges and the rise of the civil  
engineer." Civil Engineering (October, 1977), 97-101.

Meeting minutes of the Frederick County Commissioners, 1882-1889.

The Frederick Examiner, Wednesday, September 13, 1854.

F-6-7

Emmitsburg  
(BM 449)

St. Josephs  
College

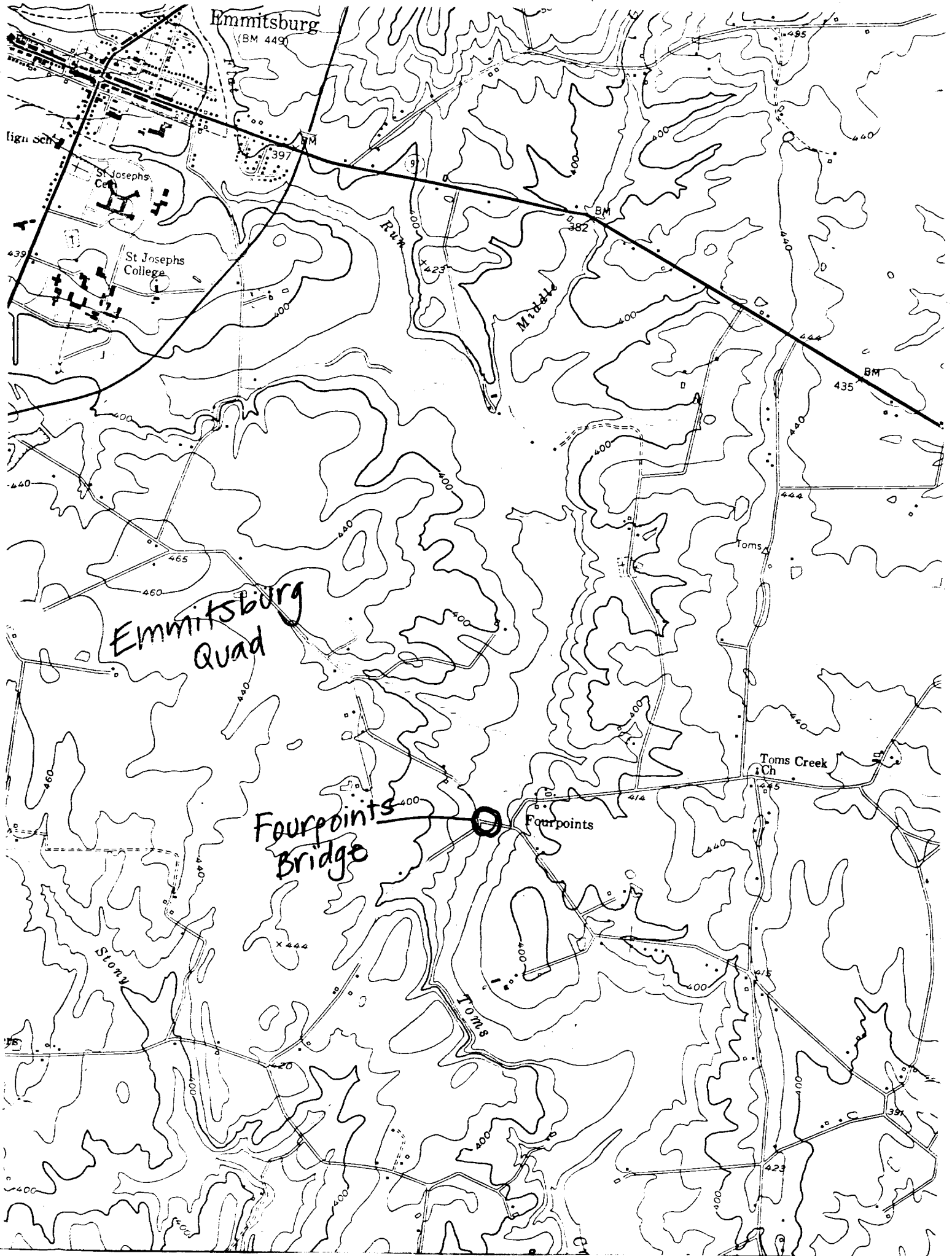
St. Josephs  
College

Emmitsburg  
Quad

Fourpoints  
Bridge

Fourpoints

Toms Creek  
Ch



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: F-6-7

Name: FOUR POINTS BRIDGE

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None	
Comments: _____	
_____	
_____	
Reviewer, OPS: <u>Anne E. Bruder</u>	Date: <u>3 April 2001</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>Peter E. Kurtze</u>	Date: <u>3 April 2001</u>

*gms*

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES  
HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY  
MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT No. F-6-7

SHA Bridge No. F05-02 Bridge name Four Points Bridge

**LOCATION:**

Street/Road name and number [facility carried] Four Points-Keysville Road over Toms Creek

City/town Emmitsburg Vicinity X

County Frederick

This bridge projects over: Road        Railway        Water X Land       

Ownership: State        County X Municipal        Other       

**HISTORIC STATUS:**

Is the bridge located within a designated historic district? Yes        No X

National Register-listed district        National Register-determined-eligible district       

Locally-designated district        Other       

Name of district       

**BRIDGE TYPE:**

Timber Bridge       :

Beam Bridge        Truss -Covered        Trestle        Timber-And-Concrete       

Stone Arch Bridge       

Metal Truss Bridge X

Movable Bridge       :

Swing        Bascule Single Leaf        Bascule Multiple Leaf       

Vertical Lift        Retractable        Pontoon       

Metal Girder       :

Rolled Girder        Rolled Girder Concrete Encased       

Plate Girder        Plate Girder Concrete Encased       

Metal Suspension       

Metal Arch       

Metal Cantilever       

Concrete       :

Concrete Arch        Concrete Slab        Concrete Beam        Rigid Frame       

Other        Type Name

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Setting:** Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Small town \_\_\_\_\_ Rural   X  

**Describe Setting:**

Bridge No. F05-02 carries Four Points-Keysville Road over Toms Creek in Frederick County. Four Points-Keysville Road runs east/west and Toms Creek flows north/south. The bridge is located at Four Points, in the Emmitsburg vicinity, and is surrounded by pasture and wooded areas.

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:**

Bridge No. F05-02, constructed circa 1876 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, is a single-span, 1-lane wrought iron, Pratt half-hip, thru truss bridge. The structure is 31.4 meters (103 feet) in length and has a clear roadway width of 3.88 meters (12.75 feet). The out-to-out width is 4.77 meters (15.6 feet). It has eight (8) panels with diagonal endposts. The top chord is a built-up section of channels connected by plates. The bottom chord comprises eyebars connected by pins. The floor system has timber decking with stringers and floorbeams. All verticals are built-up sections and all diagonals are eyebars; all connections are pinned. The structure has a steel pipe railing.

The substructure consists of stone abutments and wingwalls. The structure is posted at 13,500 tonnes for singles and 18,900 tonnes for combinations (30,000 pounds and 42,000 pounds respectively). The structure has a sufficiency rating of 54.7.

According to the 1997 inspection report, the overall condition of the structure is excellent, including the truss members, stringers, floorbeams, abutments and wingwalls.

**Discuss Major Alterations:**

According to the 1997 inspection report, the entire floor system, including the timber deck, galvanized stringers, floorbeams and pipe railing were reconstructed in 1997. In addition, the stone abutments and wingwalls were repointed and the truss was painted. The structure, which had been closed to traffic, was re-opened on August 6, 1997.

**HISTORY:**

**WHEN was the bridge built:** circa 1876

**This date is:** Actual \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated   X  

**Source of date:** Plaque   X   Design plans \_\_\_\_\_ SHA/County bridge files/inspection form   X  

**Other (specify):**

**SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:**

**This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with:**

A - Events   X   B- Person \_\_\_\_\_

C- Engineering/architectural character   X  

The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in November 1978.

**SURVEYOR:****Date bridge recorded** March 1998**Name of surveyor** Dave Dick/Caroline Hall**Organization/Address** Wallace Montgomery and Associates, 110 West Road, Towson, MD 21204/  
P.A.C. Spero & Co., 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Baltimore, MD 21204**Phone number** (410) 296-1635**FAX number** (410) 296-1670

ING CENTER

TOMS

15

CREAMERY

CREEK

F-6-7

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges

Bridge Type METAL TRUSS

Map TANEYTOWN A-10

County FREDERICK

Bridge # and name F5-02

FOUR POINTS - KEYSVILLE ROAD OVER TOMS CREEK

BOLLINGER

CHURCH

BRIDGE

FOUR

POINTS

ROAD

SIMMONS

FOURPOINTS

ROAD

FOUR

POINTS

ROAD

Branch

BRIDGE

DEEN

ROAD

TOMS

CREEK

CRIMES

221

BRIDGE

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

MONOCACY

FREDERICK COUNTY  
CARROLL COUNTY



1. F-6-7

2. F 500, Four hours - Regulate Food over time, Green

3. Frederic's country, etc.

4. R. on the way

5. 1000

6. m. 8000

7. 20000

8. 1000



